

## Message Text

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ACTION COME-00

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 EB-07 AGR-05 AGRE-00 SP-02

USIA-06 AID-05 NSC-05 CIEP-01 TRSE-00 SS-15 STR-04

OMB-01 CEA-01 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 /072 W

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R 281510Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0207

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: STRD, SEWT, SEC, XG, JA, CH, IT

SUBJECT: INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRY PRACTICES RE IMPORTS  
FROM COMMUNIST COUNTRIES

REF: (A) STATE 222735 (B) STATE 223894

1. THE EMBASSY HAS NOT ACCUMULATED INFORMATION ON GOI TRADE PRACTICES ON IMPORTS FROM EASTERN EUROPE AS THESE HAVE NOT BEEN AT ISSUE IN US-ITALIAN OR US-EC RELATIONS. ITALY HISTORICALLY HAS HAD A LIBERAL TRADE POLICY MAINLY BECAUSE OF ITS EXPORT ORIENTED INDUSTRIAL SECTOR AND NEARLY TOTAL DEPENDENCE ON IMPORTED RAW MATERIALS. THE GOI TRADITIONALLY HAS SOUGHT TO INCREASE ITS EXPORTS TO EASTERN EUROPE AND HAS PROVIDED LIBERAL TRADE CREDITS. ITALY SEES EASTERN EUROPE AS A MARKET FOR ITS MANUFACTURED GOODS AND TECHNOLOGY AND AS A SOURCE OF RAW MATERIALS. THE GOI PREFERS NOT TO TAKE A HIGHLY PROTECTIVE POSITION AGAINST IMPORTS FROM EASTERN EUROPE FOR FEAR OF JEOPARDIZING ITALY'S EXPORTS TO EASTERN EUROPE. THE GOI GENERALLY HAS IGNORED CLAIMS BY ITALIAN BUSINESS OF DAMAGE DUE TO IMPORTS FROM THE EASTERN BLOC. WHEN THE GOI DOES SEEK PROTECTIVE MEASURES, IT DOES SO WITHIN THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY FRAMEWORK, GENERALLY BY ASKING THE EC COMMISSION FOR PERMISSION TO IMPLEMENT RESTRICTIVE QUOTAS. WE HAVE NOT FOUND ANY EVIDENCE THAT THE GOI HAS USED COUNTERVAILING DUTIES OR OTHER

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PROTECTIVE MEASURES. WE ARE SENDING SEPARATELY COPIES, IN ITALIAN, OF CURRENT ITALIAN IMPORT QUOTAS, BROKEN DOWN BY

PRODUCT AND COUNTRY.

2. A RECENT EXAMPLE OF A GOI REQUEST FOR A QUOTA INVOLVES LIGHT BULBS, INCANDESCENT LIGHTS, AND ELECTRONIC TUBES FROM EASTERN EUROPE. ITALY NOTIFIED THE EC THAT LOW PRICED EASTERN EUROPEAN IMPORTS HAD FORCED THE CLOSING OF 20 ITALIAN FACTORIES. IN 1971 ITALY IMPORTED 6 MILLION PIECES IN THESE CATEGORIES FROM EASTERN EUROPE. BY 1975 THIS NUMBER HAD GROWN TO 18.3 MILLION PIECES. THE EC HAS DECIDED TO ALLOW ITALY TO SET QUOTAS ON THIS YEAR'S IMPORTS FROM EASTERN EUROPE. THE QUOTEAS ARE: 4 MILLION PIECES FOR CZECHOSLOVAKIA; 2 MILLION FOR EAST GERMANY, 1.3 MILLION FOR THE USSR AND 400,000 FOR BULGARIA. HUNGARY, POLAND AND ROMANIA HAVE EXPRESSED A WILLINGNESS TO VOLUNTARILY RESTRICT THEIR EXPORTS. VOLPE

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** POLICIES, EAST WEST TRADE, INDUSTRIALIZED NATIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 28 SEP 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** ShawDG  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1976ROME15820  
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**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
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**Executive Order:** N/A  
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**Film Number:** D760366-0301  
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**Office:** ACTION COME  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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